

Message Text

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S E C R E T MEXICO 2148

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MX

SUBJ: U.S. SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (U)

REF: MEXICO 1043

1. I AM SOMEWHAT DISTURBED OVER RECENT (AND IMPENDING) DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO OUR GRANT-AID TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE MEXICAN MILITARY. FIRST, PENDING INCREASES IN THE TUITION COSTS CHARGED FOR TRAINING MEXICAN MILITARY WILL, IN EFFECT, REDUCE THE ALREADY SMALL ALLOCATION (US\$100 THOUSAND) AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. SECOND, I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ALLOCATION MAY BE TERMINATED ALTOGETHER IN FY 1978.

2. MEXICAN OFFICIALDOM TENDS TO MAINTAIN A HIGHLY RESERVED, IF NOT STAND-OFFISH, ATTITUDE TOWARD THE USG, FOR REASONS OF AN HISTORIC NATURE AND, PERHAPS, OF GOM NATIONAL POLICY. HOWEVER, OUR PRESENT RELA-

TIONS WITH THE MEXICAN MILITARY ARE EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD; I ATTRIBUTE THIS IN PART TO THE DEDICATED AND INTELLIGENT EFFORTS OF OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE BUT ALSO TO THE FACT THAT THE USG HAS SOMETHING - MODEST THOUGH IT MAY BE - TO OFFER THE MEXICAN MILITARY THROUGH THE MAP-TRAINING PROGRAM. MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE MILITARY IS IMPORTANT TO US FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, NOT LEAST OF WHICH IS THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE MILITARY IN OUR BILATERAL ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, THE MAP-TRAINING PROGRAM

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HAS BEEN AND IS BEING FRUGALLY AND EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTERED. THE

FACT THAT IT IS, IN THESE INFLATIONARY DAYS, SO SMALL MEANS THAT WE WALK THE KNIFE-EDGE OF WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOM AND WHAT MIGHT - IF REDUCED OR ADMINISTERED IN TOO NIGGARDLY A FASHION - SIMPLY BE DISPENSED WITH BY THE SENSITIVE AND HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC MEXICANS.

3. I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME ADJUSTMENT IS POSSIBLE TO INCREASE FY 1976 FUNDS IN AN AMOUNT TO COVER THE INCREASED TUITION COSTS MENTIONED ABOVE. (WE ESTIMATE THAT \$10,000 TO \$25,000 ADDITIONAL FUNDS WILL BE REQUIRED TO COVER THE REQUIREMENT FOR FY76. A MORE PRECISE ESTIMATE IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE NEW TUITION RATES SCHEDULED FOR DISTRIBUTION IN MARCH 76.) I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE ADJUSTMENT, WHEN DETERMINED, BE MADE.

4. I FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT THE MEXICO MAP-TRAINING PROGRAM BE CONTINUED BEYOND FY 1977, WITH AN INCREASED CEILING TO ALLOW THE PROGRAM TO CONTINUED AT LEAST AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL.
JOVA

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